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# **Where the Children Play:**

A Report on After-School Recreational Resources  
in San Francisco

Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth

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A Report on After-School Recreational Resources  
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Published by

COLEMAN ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
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## I. INTRODUCTION

The underlying assumption of this study is simple: what children do after school is almost as important as what they do in school. The hours after school are not "dead" time in a child's life. They represent an opportunity to learn, without the pressure of school grades or tests, and to develop physically, socially and emotionally through interaction with peers. But for far too many youngsters in San Francisco, after-school time is spent alone at home, watching TV, playing in litter-strewn streets, or "hanging out" and getting into trouble. Juvenile crime and drug problems are often related to the lack of constructive, supervised activities for young people after school.

### Changing Needs of Children

Dramatic shifts in economic and social patterns have altered the familiar scenario of children going home after school to their mothers and running out to play with neighborhood friends. Most mothers now work. This means that children often do not have anyone supervising them after school.

The social class and racial makeup of San Francisco's children has also changed in the past 30 years. No longer a city of white, middle-class children, San Francisco is now predominantly a city of minority children. Poverty among children has greatly increased, related in part to the rise of single-parent families.

For the majority of San Francisco's children, who come from low-income families, neighborhoods are not safe places. Parks are the scene of drug dealing; unsavory characters haunt the streets. There are few places where young children can play safely without adult supervision.

In affluent neighborhoods, there are decreasing numbers of children. Fewer friends live next door or even down the street. Structured programs are necessary just for normal social interaction.

San Francisco itself, with its hilly topography so attractive to tourists, is tough on children. Hills separate neighborhoods; children cannot ride bikes or walk easily around the city. Parks that are only a few blocks away are sometimes inaccessible to young children.

The needs of children during the hours when school is not in session have become acute. In order to evaluate more accurately the nature of after-school needs and to assist policy makers in adequately addressing the issue, Coleman has undertaken a survey of existing programs, identified unmet needs, and developed recommendations for future planning.

Our report is divided into three parts:

- a survey of the existing programs
- an analysis of the specific needs of 18 neighborhoods
- conclusions and recommendations.







Our focus is on San Francisco's most needy youth and on addressing the city's responsibilities to these youngsters. Therefore this report emphasizes public and non-profit social agency programs. It should be noted, however, that the quality and quantity of recreation and daycare programs provided by the city affect all families. Middle-income families who do not benefit from subsidized programs and who are not able to afford the full cost of private care need city-run programs, as do more affluent families, who are not always able to make private arrangements for their children after school.



## II. SURVEY OF AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IN SAN FRANCISCO

There are five major types of programs in San Francisco for children after school:

- A. Neighborhood Recreation Centers--Number of Children Served Daily:  
2,750 (approx.)

Supervised neighborhood recreational centers operated by the Dept. of Recreation and Parks, which focus on athletics and operate either on a drop-in or class registration basis. Funded by the City of San Francisco. No or low fee.

- B. State-Funded Childcare Centers--Number of Children Served Daily:  
2,480 (approx.)

Children's Center programs operated by the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUS) at elementary schools, which offer daily, structured child care after school. Funded by the State of California through the SFUSD. Sliding scale. Children's Center programs have been supplemented by recent legislation with "latchkey" programs, which are half state-funded and half funded through private tuition.

- C. Private Non-Profit Agency Programs--Number of Children Served Daily:  
3,700 (approx.)

Private social agency programs which range from structured, daily after-school childcare to drop-in recreation. Funded through private charitable institutions such as United Way. Fees vary from none to sliding-scale to fixed market price.

- D. Tuition-Based Private Childcare Programs--Number of Children Served Daily: 3,160 (approx.)

There are five types of private after-school childcare arrangements in San Francisco. All are operated on a tuition basis:

- a) after-school programs for kindergarteners run by nursery schools--250 children served daily
- b) after-school programs operated by private schools--2,200 children served daily
- c) family day care homes--175 children served daily
- d) parent-run programs--285 children served daily
- e) private centers not affiliated with schools or non-profit agencies--250 children served.

**Total Children Served in Daily Programs--12,090**

**Total School-Age Children in San Francisco--ages 5 to 14--62,331**  
**ages 5 to 9 --34,660**

(1986 child population, State Department of Finance estimate)





#### E. Supplemental Programs

These programs do not provide regular programming on a daily basis and are geared to supplement regular activities. They range from Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts to public library children's services.

Each type of program is important and responds to different needs. But each has serious limitations that necessitate major policy changes and the development of more innovative program models.



## A. Neighborhood Recreation Centers

San Francisco has a network of 13 Recreation Centers, each with 3 - 6 satellite playgrounds and clubhouses. The centers are staffed full-time, the playgrounds generally part-time. About half of the programming in these sites is for school-age children (K - 12).

There are 66 sites throughout the city, currently serving about 2,750 school-age children each day. This means that each program serves an average of 42 children per day. However, there is a great deal of variation in the utilization of these sites--e.g., Mission Recreation Center and the Tenderloin Recreation Center serve over 150 youth each day, while smaller playgrounds, such as West Sunset and Jackson, serve (on the average) less than 10.

Activities in these 66 sites range from sports teams to arts and crafts to board games. Many activities are on a drop-in basis. Some, such as sports teams and formal classes, require registration. There are no fees, or minimal fees, for these programs. About two-thirds of the service units are for athletics, and almost all of the youth in athletic programs are boys. This means that most of the school-age children served by Recreation and Parks are boys, and that the most frequent type of activity is participation on a sports team.

About two-thirds of the school-age youth served are ages 6 - 12, and one-third are ages 13 - 18. Of the 66 sites, 23 serve no teens, and 17 have only athletics for teens. This means that almost two-thirds of the programs have no social or cultural activities for teens.

### Program Retrenchment

According to the Recreation and Parks administrator in charge of these programs, the current status of service represents a significant reduction from the 1950s and 60s when recreation programs in San Francisco blossomed. Many of the centers and playgrounds were developed in the first half of the century, and in 1950 a bond measure significantly enhanced facilities and programs. In addition to Recreation and Parks services, in 1950 the SFUSD developed a Recreation Division, operating numerous programs (including supervised schoolyards and groups in the afternoons and evenings).

In the early 1970s, budget constraints began to be felt, and a decline in services began. In 1978, this pattern accelerated. The Board of Education virtually decimated the Recreation Division, ending, among other things, the supervised schoolyard and gym program. And Recreation and Parks was forced to cut 20% of Rec Center and Playground budgets over a two-year period. Thirteen playground sites lost staff in just one year.

According to the administrator in charge, the western half of the city suffered most. It was seen as a more affluent area, with less critical needs. In the Richmond, for instance, there were six full-time Recreation Directors in the 1960s. Now there are only two. The Western Addition area





was also hard hit, losing four supervised playgrounds in 1978. This reduction in resources came at a time when needs were increasing.

### Shifting Priorities

In more recent years, with community pressure and the availability of Open Space funds, there has been an influx of resources for recreation targeted at particularly needy areas of the city. Some new facilities have been developed; some renovations have occurred and a few new facilities are in the planning stages. So while the Sunset has lost services, the Tenderloin and the Mission have gained.

The major changes implemented in the past five years are summarized below:

<u>New Facilities Built</u>	<u>Facilities Planned</u>	<u>Renovations Completed</u>	<u>Renovations Planned</u>
Youngblood Coleman Plgd (Hunters Pt)	Boedekker Rec Ctr. (Tenderloin)	Louis Sutter (Vis Valley)	Portola Rec Ctr.
Mission Rec Ctr.	S. of Market Rec Ctr.	Upper Noe Rec Ctr.	Miraloma (Ocean View)
Boedekker Park (Tenderloin)	Richmond Rec Ctr. *	Ocean View Rec Ctr.	Chinese Center (Chinatown) Silver Terrace
	Chinatown Park/Facility*	Milton Meyer (Hunters Pt)	
		Ridgetop (Hunters Pt)	
*Site not selected		Mission Plgd	

### Critique of Recreation Programs

Despite some very successful new programs, Recreation and Parks has come under increasing criticism for what many see as the general deterioration of services and facilities. Some of the criticisms we have heard most frequently in the preparation of this report include:

#### 1. Programs are not responsive to current needs.

Perhaps the greatest concern expressed was that the Recreation and Parks programming was not fully responsive to the current needs of San Francisco's children and youth. Clearly, the athletic program--which is well-attended--responds to a basic need; however, it basically only serves boys. Teens in general are severely underserved, with most centers offering almost no teen programs.



But the most pressing problems lie with school-age children, who need a safe, structured place to go on a daily basis. Recreation and Parks has not developed an adequate model for after-school activities that offers the security, consistency, and supervision that children need, but also offers a range of activities and services attractive to children. Programs are often limited to the traditional board games, sports, crafts, etc., and their "drop-in" structure does not give children the sense of belonging that is needed for an effective program. In general, the Rec and Parks philosophy that "we do not provide childcare" has put unnecessary limits on program innovation.

2. Many facilities are in need of repair.

Renovations have not kept up with the demand, and many facilities are in desperate need of repair. Broken basketball hoops, damaged equipment, bathrooms that are out-of-order and drinking fountains that don't work are just a few of the chronic complaints.

3. Resources for programs are inadequate.

Some staff report frustrations with budget constraints that do not allow them to order the supplies, equipment and materials that are needed to attract today's youth. A quality, innovative program requires more than checker sets, crayons and balls. New games, sports equipment, and arts and crafts materials are needed.

4. Many facilities are not safe.

Parents frequently complained to us that their neighborhood Rec Center or playground is not a safe place for their children, especially their younger school-age children. Generally, it was felt that older youth dominated the yards and centers, making them inaccessible to children ages 5 - 8. Some centers are considered so unsafe (surrounded by drug-dealing and substance abuse consumption) that even staff are fearful. Some parents are critical of certain recreation staff for not being more assertive in limiting the use of drugs in and around the premises.

5. Outreach is limited.

Preliminary findings of Recreation and Parks' own survey corroborates our impression that many people are not aware of programs. The Department disseminates some fliers and publicizes some activities, but publicity is inconsistent and not a high priority. It also frequently does not involve the aggressive outreach to parents and children, in appropriate places, that is needed to build strong program attendance.

6. Quality of staff varies.

There are many enthusiastic and talented people working for the Recreation and Parks Department. However, in our research we have heard consistent complaints about the quality of some staff. These included concerns about productivity, ability to relate to children, initiative, and creativity.





7. There is little collaboration with other groups.

Concern about latchkey children is growing among all providers of services to children. The Recreation and Parks Department could easily find a number of groups and agencies with which to work collaboratively to enrich its program and resources. These include the Girl Scouts, public libraries, YMCAs, parent groups, and so on.

8. There is minimal use of volunteers.

Recreation and Parks does not have a comprehensive volunteer recruitment and training program. Recreation is an area where services could be greatly enhanced through volunteers.

9. Utilization and cost-effectiveness are low.

In our research, we discovered many city facilities to be under-utilized. The average daily attendance in some facilities is quite low--such as at Hamilton Rec Center, where the average daily attendance of children ages 6 to 12 is reported to be 15. This does not make best use of the staff and the facility.

In summary, San Francisco is blessed with a rich network of recreation facilities, which are used by thousands of children and youth throughout the city. However, it appears that both program quality and utilization, are inconsistent and that the potential of the Recreation and Parks Department to meet the needs of today's children has not yet been met.



## **B. State-Funded Childcare Centers**

The San Francisco Unified School District is the primary provider of formal after-school childcare for school-age children in San Francisco. It receives state funds to operate 29 "Children's Centers"--school-age programs at school sites throughout the city. These programs serve about 2,300 youngsters, ages 5 - 11. Fees are on a sliding scale.

The Children's Centers are relatively well-funded. They provides transportation, food and a wide range of educational, cultural and recreational activities. Staff are experienced, well-trained, and adequately paid.

Children's Centers have been recently supplemented through SB 303 (1985), which provided funds for latchkey programs throughout the state. San Francisco received funds for six sites, which were selected on the basis of a survey of the most needy neighborhoods. Each site has about 30 slots, half of which must take families that can pay full tuition. The other half can be subsidized through state funds. The new latchkey programs are all operated differently--some are co-located with Children's Centers, others are in public or private schools, and others are in private agencies.

San Francisco is indeed fortunate to have such a well-established, stable program as the Children's Centers and latchkey programs. A concern that has been expressed by some child advocates, however, is that the Children's Centers operate quite independently, collaborating little with other agencies in their neighborhoods. Perhaps this is because they are administered from a central office. Greater collaboration may be one way in which the resources of the Children's Centers can be more widely spread throughout the community.

There are a handful of other after-school programs that also receive funding from the State (Department of Education) and provide subsidized care. They are located in private non-profit agencies, and a number of them are administered by the Economic Opportunity Council.

### Children's Centers--A Limited Model

Unfortunately, state-funded programs of the Children's Center model are not going to solve the problem of the increasing need for after-school programs--at least not in the foreseeable future. The major reason for this is that they are very expensive to operate, and the availability of state funds is decreasing. This year the Children's Centers experienced a 4% budget cut; as a result, San Francisco will be lucky if it can maintain the status quo with regard to these programs.

The only way to expand the Children's Center-type program is on a tuition-paying basis, where parents would pay fees to cover the full cost of the program. The school district is beginning to experiment with this option, but it remains to be seen whether many parents can afford it.





There is another major reason that Children's Centers are not the answer to the growing need for after-school programs. As children get older, a structured, highly-supervised program can begin to feel too inhibiting and childish. Children get tired of childcare, and parents begin to feel that their children can assume more responsibility for themselves. Enrollment in these Centers diminishes sharply after the third grade. Also, because of financial factors, parents will often withdraw children from programs as soon as they feel it is safe. More cost-effective, less restrictive models are needed for children as they grow older.



### C. Private Non-Profit Programs

The most innovations in after-school programming are occurring in the private non-profit sector. Private agencies have not had the funds or facilities to operate mini-Children's Centers, yet their traditional after-school programs (classes, clubs, etc., that meet weekly) have been losing customers. This has forced some agencies to become quite creative.

The private non-profit sector that provides after-school services can be broken-down into six basic agency groupings:

Agencies Providing After-School Programs	Number in San Francisco
Y's: YMCA	6
YWCA	2
Boys & Girls Clubs	6
JCCs	2
Neighborhood Community Centers	18
Salvation Army	3
Childcare agencies	11

These 48 agencies offer a wide variety of programs, ranging from daily structured childcare to drop-in programs to educational enrichment programs. Collectively, they serve about 4,000 youngsters every day, or about 80 children per agency. It is instructive to look at the transition that some of these agencies are making, as they attempt to be more responsive to today's needs.

#### YMCAs and JCC

The YMCAs have made a major shift in program and policy. In the past they offered classes and athletic- and club-related programs; now all of the YMCAs are operating daily, supervised childcare. They have discontinued the other programs, and many have also dropped teen programming, so that they can put all of their resources into what is clearly a high-need area that will also reap high registration and attendance. They have begun to work with the SFUSD, making arrangements to conduct some of their programs at school sites--an innovative mixture of public and private services. They offer programming similar to the Children's Centers but less expensive, partly because it is in the private sector and staff costs are less.

The main branch of the Jewish Community Center has gone through a similar transition, moving from cultural and social classes and clubs to after-school childcare. Here the innovation is in the effort to combine these two approaches, thus maintaining the program's attractiveness for older children. Thus, children registering for day care also have the opportunity to attend a wide range of specialty classes in sports, crafts, etc.

The JCC caters to a fairly affluent group, so that its model is not necessarily applicable city-wide. However, it certainly demonstrates what the need is, as it has developed the largest after school-program in the city.



## Neighborhood-Based Community Centers

Private, neighborhood-based community centers are also struggling to respond to needs. Many of these Centers, however, such as Bernal Heights, Precita, and Booker T. Washington, operate on very small budgets (between \$150,000 to \$300,000) and only three or fewer staff are assigned to working with children and youth. Agencies simply do not have the resources for much creativity, outreach, or variety in programming. Consequently, there is great variation in the type and quality of services these programs offer.

Some child advocates maintain that a certain critical mass of staff effort is required to put a quality program in place. With reductions in funding, these centers have suffered the most. Other advocates, however, believe that these agencies could be doing more, even with limited staff. We must question policies that allow agencies to operate at such a marginal level. The structures are standing and the facilities offer opportunities for programming--too many facilities are severely underused.

## Boys and Girls Clubs

The Boys (and now Girls) Clubs have developed a program model that is a cross between childcare and traditional (Recreation and Parks style) recreation. They are probably the most heavily attended after-school programs in the city, particularly for children past the primary grades. Most of the programs serve about 150 children each day. Four to five staff are on duty to work with these youngsters. The Clubs combine an open setting--children attend on a drop-in basis--with a membership policy entailing a very modest fee and an annual registration. The membership creates a feeling of belonging and also makes parents feel that the Club is taking on a higher level of responsibility for the children than if they were simply sent off to a playground.

The program at the Boys/Girls Clubs is not complicated. It consists of a combination of drop-in, ongoing recreational activities, and scheduled classes in crafts, woodworking, science, etc. The Clubs usually have three to four activities going on simultaneously. Some of the Clubs have quiet rooms where children can do homework and get assistance with scholastic problems. In addition, some of the Clubs with more resources have specialty programs, such as the computer program at the Columbia Boys Club.

The Clubs are generally open in the evening, as well as after school.

The Boys/Girls Clubs model seems to combine many important elements:

- Membership--making children feel like they belong
- Drop-in programming offering flexibility for children and parents
- Safe physical environment
- Variety of programming
- Extended hours, so that children can stay into the early evening
- Cost-effectiveness





### Non-Profit Childcare Centers

There are almost a dozen non-profit childcare centers in San Francisco that offer after-school programs. Some are reimbursed with State funds. All of these centers charge on a sliding scale; together, they serve about 300 youngsters after school.

These centers are all unique in that each has its origin in a unique set of circumstances--for example, the university campus-based center, the multi-cultural school, etc. The high cost of operating a sliding-scale center plus the unique circumstances which gave rise to them make it unlikely that this type of program will be significantly expanded.

It is important to note that while many agencies have shifted resources to better respond to the needs of latchkey children, there have been gaps left in programming for teens. For example, as the Ys develop their after-school childcare, they have cut back on special teen activities.

### Senators Ace Program

We have included the Senators Ace program in this survey, even though it is very different from the other programs described. It presents a unique model for teen programming and is perhaps the only large daily teen program in the city.

The Senators is in Hunters Point, and its approach is particularly appropriate for very needy areas. Senators Ace has combined several types of services that are traditionally kept separate--tutoring, athletics, and career development, as well as social and recreational activities. Staff go to the youth in the schools, offering tutoring services in classrooms after school. The athletics program is quite extensive and professionally operated, which makes it attractive to youth. This combination of services may be the model that is needed to provide today's teenagers with a program that will help them with their future, as well as with regard to their recreational needs.



#### D. Tuition-Based Private Childcare Programs

There are a range of private programs that charge tuition and provide regular after-school childcare. Combined, they serve approximately 3,150 children.

Private Schools: The majority of children (2,200) in private programs are served through private schools, which remain open after school. The private schools serve approximately the same number as the public school, state-subsidized Children's Centers. Some parents send their children to private schools simply because of the availability of after-school programs. It is very convenient for parents and children to have an extended day program.

The programs vary in quality and types of activities offered. Private schools offering these programs are approximately half a dozen Montessori, a dozen Catholic, 10 ethnically or religiously-affiliated schools and 18 other private schools--about 45 different schools in all.

Parent-Run: There are nine parent-run after-school programs in San Francisco. They are:

- \* Buena Vista Alternative
- \* Claire Lilienthal
- \* Clarendon
- \* Glen Park
- \* Gratton
- \* Miraloma
- \* West Portal
- \* William D. Avila
- \* Yoey Playgroup

They are primarily operated out of public schools, although some have private locations. Some are actually operated by parents who work in the program. In others, a parent board hires teachers and administrators to operate the program. A unique set of circumstances are required to develop a parent-run program. While this is a creative and desirable model, it is not likely to become widespread.

Family Day Care: Family day care programs are licensed homes that take up to six children. There are over 400 such homes in San Francisco. Only 40 take school-age children, and there are a total of only 85 school-age slots in these homes.

The homes are operated on a tuition basis. It is often not cost-effective for the family day care provider to run an after-school program, rather than a full-day program for younger children. Therefore it is unlikely that this will be an option for many school-age children.

Nursery School Kindergarten Programs: A number of private nursery schools have started to run afternoon programs for kindergartens, since the



scheduling fits into their pre-school program. Many of the schools only have a handful of slots. According to our survey, there are approximately 10 such schools, serving about 200 children. This is a convenient, appropriate program for kindergarteners, who have unique needs--partly because it is their first year of school and partly because school is only half a day. In light of the tremendous difficulty parents of kindergarteners have, this is a program model that needs to be expanded.

Private, Independent Day Care Centers: There are only about a dozen privately run centers that operate on a tuition basis and are not affiliated with any school or agency. They serve under 250 children. The small number of these programs reflects the difficulty in sustaining such an operation. An enterprising individual, such as Kathy Michaels, who runs two such schools, can make a go of it, but such success is very rare. It is not likely that this type of after-school program will flourish, despite pressure from certain current policy makers to move all services into the private sector (particularly the private, profit-making sector). At this point in time, childcare is not something in which a profit can be made.





## E. Supplementary Programs

There are a number of programs in San Francisco that supplement the services listed above:

### ● Libraries

Each of San Francisco's 27 branch libraries has a children's section. The San Francisco Public Libraries report that utilization of the libraries has changed dramatically in the past decade. Children are now coming to libraries after school and staying until their parents return home from work. Libraries have become a type of childcare center for these youngsters, which has created a very different type of demand on the librarians. About 35% of the libraries' clientele are children and about 80% of the children who use libraries come on their own. Neighborhoods where the use of libraries for childcare is greatest are:

- (1) Chinatown
- (2) Sunset
- (3) Main Library at Civic Center (serving kids in the Tenderloin, North of Market area)
- (4) Excelsior
- (5) Merced
- (6) North Beach

Unfortunately, there are fewest libraries in the Southeast section of the city, where most of the city's children now reside.

### ● Camp Fire, Scouts, 4 - H

There are four varieties of "club" activities for children in San Francisco:

	Number of children served
Boy Scouts	Not Available (33,000 Bay Area)
Camp Fire	300 in weekly clubs, 1400 in all activities
Girl Scouts	1400 in all activities
4 - H	135 (in clubs)

The experiences of these groups tell us something about program needs in San Francisco:

- It is more difficult to recruit volunteer parent leaders in San Francisco than in other communities.
- It has been more effective to have meetings and activities in schools (either during lunch or after school) than in people's homes.
- Children can be recruited for these specialized club activities through other programs, such as Rec and Parks Centers and Children's Centers.



- Children will come to special events, such as Double-Dutch tournaments (an innovative idea developed by Girl Scouts) more readily than they will come to weekly club meetings.
- Paid staff are necessary to supplement the work of volunteer leaders.

It seems that these traditional clubs are making some major changes in their methods of operation in order to accommodate the needs of 1986. The meeting at someone's home once a week from 4:00-5:00 p.m. is not realistic anymore in most cases. Girl Scouts and Camp Fire have been particularly creative in responding to changing needs.

- PAL (Police Activities League)

PAL is probably the largest athletics program in the city (outside of Recreation and Parks). It offers 14 sports for boys and girls, serving between 4,000 and 5,000 children each year. About 80% of participants are boys. Enrollment in soccer, baseball and basketball has been increasing in recent years.

- Cultural Programs

The San Francisco Rec and Parks Department operates a variety of cultural activities for children. Some classes are given at Rec Centers, but the majority of activities are offered at central locations. These include:

- Junior Museum
- Sharon Arts Building
- Photography Center

Thousands of children participate in these specialty programs. However, it is often the more affluent families who arrange their children's participation, partly because of cost, transportation and knowledge of the systems. Recently, Rec and Parks has sent a bus to Hunters Point on a regular basis to take children to the Junior Museum in order to try to address this inequity.

There are numerous other private supplementary programs. However, it should be pointed out that the majority of San Francisco's children, who are low-income, do not use them, and that these programs cannot provide the daily consistency, security and stimulation that many children need.



### III. ANALYSIS OF NEED BY NEIGHBORHOOD

For the purpose of this survey, San Francisco has been divided into 18 neighborhoods (see Map, Appendix 1, for neighborhood boundaries), utilizing the Community Planning Districts developed by the San Francisco Department of City Planning. We have evaluated the level of need in each of these communities, based on the programs available, the child population, and socio-economic factors.

We have also identified space available (schools, parks, rec centers) that are not being utilized, and have commented on various factors and conditions that exist in each neighborhood.

Based on the data collected, we developed a Recreation Index for each community--which is, very roughly, a relationship between the child population and public/non-profit services available after school. This index does not take socio-economic factors into account.

Using the Index and our assessment of socio-economic factors, we have rated the level of need in each community. We have also identified pockets of highest need in many communities. The data we used are based on the following:

- Statistics on Children: 1980 census data, received from San Francisco Planning Department.
- Socio-Economic Factors: based on data developed by United Way, the San Francisco Planning Department, and the San Francisco Juvenile Court.
- Children's Center data: based on daily attendance of kindergarten and school-age children taken from attendance records.
- Recreation and Parks: based on monthly reports of each Recreation Center, developed by the City Management-by-Objective system. Statistics used were for March 1986, except in a few cases where March statistics had not been kept or appeared inaccurate, in which case we used statistics from April 1986.
- Non-Profit Agency Programs: attendance data that are based on verbal reports of agency personnel and are estimates of daily attendance.
- Tuition-Based Private Programs: based on a survey done by the Children's Council of San Francisco in June 1986.
- Libraries: attendance data from the Children's Services Director. Figures reflect only the number of children using the Children's Room. (If an asterix appears with a figure, it means the figure should be considered low, since in that particular library, the entire facility is being used by children.)

A Recreation Index was developed to compare the needs of different neighborhoods (see page 37).





**VISITACION VALLEY**

Statistics on Children

Number of Children: 5,727  
Number Children  
Ages 5-14: 2,631  
Percentage of City's  
Child Population: 4.5%  
Density: 36%

Socio-Economic Factors

- Low- to middle-income
- Highest density of children in City
- Racially mixed: Black, Filipino, White, Samoan

Agencies (Number of Children served per day)

Children's Centers

John McLaren 105

Latchkey

Early Years Academy,  
El Dorado School 30

Recreation and Parks

Herz Playground 27  
(6-12: 17, teen: 10)

Vis. Valley Playground 24  
(6-12: 24, teen: 0)

Kelloch 20  
(6-12: 20, teen: 0)

Visitacion Valley Elementary  
(new playground program)

Coffman Pool  
No gym in Valley

Non-Profit Agency Programs

Vis Valley Family Center 16

Private, Tuition-Based Childcare

3 Private Schools with after-school  
childcare

Libraries	# per Day	
Breakdown by age:	6-12	13-18
Vis. Valley Reading Ctr.	53	51

Spaces Available

Schools Without Supervised Programs:

Visitacion Valley Middle School

Parks Without Supervision

Louis Sutter (closed in 1978)  
Sunnydale Rec Center (Closed by  
Housing Authority)  
Little Hollywood  
McLaren Park

Comments

Two housing projects -- Geneva towers and Sunnydale -- present the pockets of greatest need in Visitacion Valley, which generally has been a severely underserved area for many years. Locations exist in this neighborhood for programs (such as the Recreation Center in the Sunnydale Projects or the bungalows at Visitacion Valley School) but there are no staff or operating budgets. The Community Center in Visitacion Valley has a very low budget for children's programs and often does not get the kind of funds that are available for high need areas in other parts of the city.

There is a coalition of parents working on the problem and a parent-run, cooperative after-school program in the area.

Level of Need: Very High



## OUTER MISSION

### Statistics on Children

Number of Children: 13,931  
Number Children  
Ages 5 - 14: 6,343  
Percentage of City's  
Child Population: 11%  
Density: 26%

### Socio-Economic Factors

- Ethnically mixed, Latino, Filipino, smaller Black and White populations
- Low- to middle-income

Agencies (Number of children served per day)

### Children's Centers

Excelsior	135
San Miguel	110
E.R. Taylor	90

### Recreation and Parks

Portola Rec Center	22
(6-12: 22, teen: 0)	

Crocker	32
(6-12: 32, teen: 0)	

Excelsior	34
(6-12: 14, teen: 20)	

Alice Chalmers	37
(6-12: 37, teen: 0)	

Cayuga	42
(6-12: 0, teen: 42)	

Balboa Pool

Luther Burbank Middle School  
(supervised playground and gym)  
Hillcrest Elementary (supervised gym)

### Non-Profit Agency Programs

YMCA	100
San Bruno Boys Club	150

### Private, Tuition-based Childcare

Candlelight Child Development	28
Kiddie Kare Kollege	9
2 Private schools with programs	

<u>Libraries</u>	<u># / Day</u>	
Breakdown by age:	<u>6-12</u>	<u>13-18</u>
Excelsior (Regional Branch)	32	65
Portola Reading Ctr	36	26

### Spaces Available

### Schools Without Supervised Programs

Longfellow Elementary  
Guadalupe Elementary  
Cleveland Elementary  
Monroe Elementary  
James Iverson Middle School

### Parks Without Supervision

Balboa Park  
McLaren Park

### Comments

The Outer Mission is a large geographic area containing a high percentage of San Francisco's children. It is a community in transition, with older families moving out and younger families moving in. The density of children is increasing. Pockets of extremely high need include Upper Excelsior, the Mission corridor, and the Southern Hills. Only two non-profit agency programs serve this area. If funds were available, however, there are many school sites that could host after-school programs.

Level of Need: Very High



## MISSION

### Statistics on Children

Number of Children: 14,002  
Number Children  
Ages 5 - 14: 6,346  
Percentage of City's  
Child Population: 11%  
Density: 26%

### Socio-Economic Factors

- High juvenile crime area
- High poverty
- Many immigrant families
- Predominantly Latino population

### Agencies (Number of Children served per day)

#### Children's Centers

Bryant 46  
Las Americas 114

#### Recreation and Parks

Mission Rec Center 288  
(6-12: 143, teen: 145)

Mission Playground 83  
(6-12: 51, teen: 32)

Folsom 16  
(6-12: 16, teen: 0)

Garfield 5  
(6-12: 5, teen: 0)

Horace Mann 20  
(6-12: 20, teen: 0)

Hawthorne (supervised schoolyard)

### Non-Profit Agency Programs

Jamestown Center 40  
Columbia Boys and  
Girls Club 150  
Mission Boys and  
Girls Club 150  
Horizons 50  
Salvation Army 30  
RAP 25

### Private, Tuition-Based Childcare

Kathy Michaels 20  
Buen Dia Family School 5  
1 Private School with  
After-School Childcare

<u>Libraries</u>	<u># /Day</u>	
<u>Breakdown by age:</u>	<u>6-12</u>	<u>13-18</u>
Mission (Regional Branch)	32*	12

### Spaces Available

#### Schools Without supervised Programs:

Marshall Elementary

#### Parks Without Supervision

Potrero de Sol Park  
Levi Strauss Plaza (Closed in 1978)

### Comments

The Mission has an increasing density of youth, particularly with its burgeoning refugee population. Areas of exceptional need are Bernal Projects and the areas surrounding SF General Hospital and Valencia Gardens.

There are many non-profit agency programs in the Mission, and a number of Rec and Park facilities. The need is not for more agencies or facilities, but rather for enhancing existing facilities.

### Level of Need: Very High





## INNER SUNSET

### Statistics on Children

Number of Children: 5,687  
Number Children  
Ages 5 - 14: 2,598  
Percentage of City's  
Child Population 4.0%  
Density 18.0%

### Socio-Economic Factors

- Family neighborhood
- Middle-income
- Predominantly white and Asian

### Agencies

#### Children's Centers:

Jefferson SA 77

#### Recreation and Parks

West Portal 9  
(6-12: 9, teen: 0)

J. P. Murphy 36  
(6-12: 25, teen: 11)

Jefferson (supervised school  
playground)

#### Non-Profit Agency Programs:

None

#### Private, Tuition-based Childcare

Jefferson Parent-run Afterschool 30

West Portal, Parent-run 25

Kathy Michaels Nursery 5

West Portal Care 75

2 Private Schools with programs

<u>Libraries</u>	<u># /day</u>	
Breakdown by age:	6-12	13-18
Sunset (Regional Branch)	37	2*
West Portal (Reg. Branch)	46	22

### Available Spaces

#### Schools Without Supervised Programs:

Herbert Hoover Middle School

#### Unsupervised Parks:

Mount Sutro  
Sunset Heights  
Grandview

### Comments:

There are almost no after-school programs in the Inner Sunset.

The Inner Sunset ranks highest on our need index, which is the ratio of program slots to population. It should be noted, however, that there are 6 privately run programs in the area.

In addition, unlike other communities, there are very few possible facilities for programs.

### Level of Need: Very High



## BERNAL HEIGHTS

### Statistics on Children

Number of Children: 5,602  
Number Children  
Ages 5 - 14: 2,514  
Percentage of City  
Child Population: 4%  
Density: 27%

### Socio-Economic Factors

- Poor area, with some growing pockets of affluence
- Racially mixed: Black, white, Filipino, Samoan

Agencies (Number of Children served per day)

#### Children's Centers

Flynn 86  
Junipero Serra 55

#### Recreation and Parks

St. Mary's 83  
(6-12: 45, teen: 38)

Bernal Heights 25  
(6-12: 19, teen: 6)

Paul Revere Elementary (supervised school playground)

#### Non-Profit Agency Programs

Bernal Heights  
Community Center 80

Precita Center 50

#### Private, Tuition-based Childcare

No Private Schools with programs

Libraries	#	/day
Breakdown by age:	6-12	13-18
Bernal Heights		
Branch	15	6

### Spaces Available

#### Schools Without Supervised Programs:

None

#### Unsupervised Parks:

Holly Park  
Precita Park  
Reservoir  
Bernal Heights Blvd

### Comments

The pockets of very high need that exist in Bernal Heights are the Allemany Projects and the Cortland Avenue corridor. The Projects, which are isolated by hills, need a program specifically for their children.

The fact that there are two private centers in the area is misleading, since both are extremely understaffed and closed at critical times.

### Level of Need: Very High



## **SOUTH OF MARKET**

### **Statistics on Children**

Number of Children: 1,483

Number Children

Ages 5 - 14: 571

Percentage of City's

Child Population: 1%

Density: 14%

1986 estimates from social service agencies:

Number of children: 3,000

Number children

ages 5 - 14: 1,500

### **Socio-Economic Factors**

- Dramatic increases in families in South of Market area
- Predominately Filipino and other Southeast Asian immigrants
- Poor area, few resources

**Agencies** (Number of Children served per day)

### **Children's Centers**

None

### **Recreation and Parks**

Bessie Carmichael Elementary  
(supervised school playground)

Plans are underway for a major Rec Center in the area. Funds have been set aside and the location (St. Patrick's) selected.

### **Non-Profit Agency Programs**

Salvation Army 80

Canon Kip 110

Libraries  
none

### **Private, Tuition-Based**

Love & Learn Nursery School--5

No private schools with after-school childcare

### **Spaces Available**

#### **Schools Without Supervised Program:**

None

#### **Parks Without Supervision**

None

### **Comments**

The South of Market area has a growing number of children -- most from poor families. Children here have very few options; many hang out at local fast food places. The need in this area is likely to increase. Recreation and Parks is planning a new facility for the area to respond to the demand.

**Level of Need: Very High**



## **NORTH OF MARKET**

### **Statistics on Children**

Number of Children: 2,824  
Number Children  
Ages 5 -14: 1,115  
Percentage of City's  
Child Population: 2%  
Density: 10%

### **1986 estimates from social agencies:**

Number of Children: **7,000**  
Number Children  
Ages 5 - 14: **3,500**

### **Socio-Economic Factors**

- Growing family population, primarily Southeast Asian immigrants and the homeless
- Low-income community

### **Agencies** (Number of Children served per day)

#### **Children's Centers**

Redding 46

#### **Recreation and Parks**

Tenderloin Rec Center 154  
(6-12: 83, teen: 71)

Boedekker Park 28  
(6-12: 18, teen: 10)

Redding School 50  
(6-12: 50, teen: 0)

A new Rec Center is being developed in the Tenderloin, next to Boedekker Park.

### **Non-Profit Agency Programs**

YMCA 70  
Glide Children's Program 50

<u>Libraries</u>	<u># / Day</u>
<u>Breakdown by age</u>	<u>6-12</u> <u>13-18</u>
San Francisco Main Branch	65   24

Private, Tuition-Based Childcare  
No private schools with after-school childcare

### **Spaces Available**

#### **Schools Without Supervised Program:**

None

#### **Parks Without Supervision**

None

### **Comments**

The North of Market area's child population is dramatically increasing in numbers and is quickly becoming one of the densest concentrations of children in San Francisco. Yet there has been no planning to better accommodate the North of Market to the needs of children. It remains possibly the least safe neighborhood for children in the city.

### **Level of Need: Very High**





## OCEAN VIEW, INGLESIDE, MERCED

### Statistics on Children

Number of Children: 11,855  
Number Children  
Ages 5 - 14: 5,177  
Percentage of City's  
Child Population: 9%  
Density: 23%

### Socio-Economic Factors

- High juvenile crime
- Racially mixed, primarily Black and White
- Economically varied

Agencies (Number of Children served per day)

### Children's Centers/Latchkey

YMCA (Commodore Sloat)	30
Lakeshore Alternative	30

### Recreation and Parks

Ocean View Rec Center	38
(6-12: 29, teen: 9)	
Sunnyside	24
(6-12: 15, teen: 9)	
Junipero Serra	42
(6-12: 29, teen: 13)	
Aptos	34
(6-12: 34, teen: 0)	
Miraloma	11
(6-12: 7, teen: 4)	
Merced Heights	30
(6-12: 28, teen: 2)	

### Non-Profit Agency Programs

JCC Brotherhood Way	50
Campus Child Development	24

<u>Libraries</u>	<u>#/ Day</u>	
Breakdown by age:	6-12	13-18
Ocean View Reading Ctr	5	5
Ingleside Rading Ctr	19	11
Merced Branch	42	22

### Private, Tuition-Based Childcare

Glen Park Elementary, Parent-Run Program	25
KEEP	25

5 private schools with after-school childcare

### Spaces Available

### Schools Without Supervised Programs:

Sheridan Elementary  
Jose Oriega Elementary  
Aptos Middle School

### Parks Without Supervision

Balboa Reservoir  
Mt. Davidson Park  
Lake Merced

### Comments

The neighborhoods in this area vary greatly in terms of socio-economic and racial status. The sub-communities can be broken down as follows:

Ocean View -- low income  
Lake View -- low income  
Ingleside Terrace -- affluent  
Westmore Heights -- upper middle  
Cottage Hill -- middle class  
Monterey Park -- affluent  
St. Francis Woods -- affluent

Ocean View is the highest need area in this section of the city, with Lake View being second in need. There are many children in this part of the city, which is a geographically large area, and while there are many Recreation and Parks facilities, there are almost no private agencies.

Level of Need: Very High



## WESTERN ADDITION

### Statistics on Children

Number of Children: 8,431  
Number Children  
Ages 5 - 14: 3,739  
Percentage of City's  
Child Population: 6.5%  
Density: 20%

### Socio-Economic Factors

- High delinquency rate
- Low-income
- Predominately Black

### Agencies (Number of Children served per day)

#### Children's Centers

Cobb	70
Raphael Weil	167

#### Recreation and Parks

Hamilton Rec Center	70
(6-12: 15, teen: 55)	
Hayes Valley	45
(6-12: 22, teen: 23)	
Hayward	63
(6-12: 8, teen: 55)	

#### Non-Profit Agency Programs

Buchanan Street YMCA	60
YWCA	75
Booker T. Washington	90
Ella Hill Hutch Center	75
Japanese Community	
Youth Council	40
Cross-Cultural Family	
Center	45

<u>Libraries</u>	<u># /Day</u>	
<u>Breakdown by age:</u>	<u>6-12</u>	<u>13-18</u>
Western Add. Branch	14	5
Presidio Branch	16	4

### Private, Tuition-Based Childcare

Calvary Presbyterian 8  
3 private schools with after-school  
childcare

### Spaces Available

#### Schools Without Supervised Programs:

Benjamin Franklin Middle School  
Golden Gate Elementary  
John Swett Alternative

#### Playgrounds Without Supervision

Alamo Square  
Jefferson  
(All closed in 1978)

### Comments

The Western Addition has a declining child population. However, all social indicators--including incidence of juvenile crime and number of children in foster care--show that the youth there are very needy. The Western Addition has more private agencies than most communities and has a well-equipped Rec Center. So, new facilities and agencies are probably not the answer, although three supervised programs at parks were closed in 1978.

### Level of Need: Very High



## CHINATOWN/NORTH BEACH

### Statistics on Children

Number of Children: 9,734  
Number Children  
Ages 5- 14: 4,557  
Percentage of City's  
Child Population: 7.5%  
Density: 15%

### Socio-Economic Factors

- Complete range of incomes from poor to rich
- Chinatown: Asian, predominantly Chinese; highest population density in city
- North Beach: ethnically mixed, White, Asian, Black; pockets of affluence

### Agencies (Number of Children served per day)

#### Children's Centers

Commodore Stockton	115
Sara Cooper	50
Yerba Buena	85

#### Recreation and Parks

North Beach	35
(6-12: 32, teen: 3)	
Chinese Center	18
(6-12: 14, teen: 4)	
Chinese Playground	46
(6-12: 46, teen: 0)	
Helen Wills	83
(6-12: 75, teen: 8)	

A new facility is in the planning stages.

Jean Parker Elementary (supervised school playground)

<u>Libraries</u>	<u># / Day</u>	
<u>Breakdown by age:</u>	<u>6-12</u>	<u>13-18</u>
Chinatown (Reg. Branch)	57*	24*
North Beach Branch		

### Non-Profit Agency Programs

YMCA	45
YWCA/Chinatown-	
North Beach	52
Salvation Army	50
Telegraph Hill	60
Boys & Girls Club	75
Cameroun House	100
Chinatown Community	
Children's Center	17

### Private, Tuition-based Childcare

2 Private Schools with programs

### Spaces available

#### Schools Without Supervised Programs:

Yick Woo Elementary  
Spring Valley Elementary  
Garfield Elementary  
Francisco Middle School

#### Parks Without Supervision

Washington Square  
Jackson Park  
Portsmouth Square  
Coolbrith Park

### Comments

Chinatown remains one of the greatest need areas. As immigration continues, the need for services increases. The Chinese community is branching out towards North Beach and Van Ness, yet many parents must bring their children back to central Chinatown to play in a park. There are a handful of private programs in the area, 3 supervised parks, and plans for a new park. Yet the need is so great that these services are not adequate.

In the North Beach area, the North Beach projects, which are predominantly Black and Asian, are a particularly high-need area.

### Level of Need: Very High





## **BAY VIEW/HUNTERS POINT**

### **Statistics on Children**

Number of Children: 6,433  
Number Children  
Ages 5 - 13: 3,020  
Percentage of City's  
Child Population: 5%  
Density: 27%

### **Socio-Economic Factors**

- Predominantly Black
- High concentration of public housing
- Many poor families
- High juvenile crime

### **Agencies** (Number of Children served per day)

#### **Children's Centers**

Bret Harte	70
Burnette	110
Dr. Charles Drew	140

#### **Recreation and Parks**

Joseph Lee	34
(6-12: 34, teen: 0)	
Hunters Point gym	96
(6-12: 96, teen: 0)	
Milton Meyer	54
(6-12: 25, teen: 29)	
Gilman	10
(6-12: 8, teen: 2)	
Youngblood-Coleman	49
(6-12: 29, teen: 20)	
Silver Terrace	28
(6-12: 23, teen: 5)	

Martin Luther King pool  
Bret Harte Elementary (gym)

<u>Libraries</u>	<u># /Day</u>	
Breakdown by age:	6-12	13-18
Anna E. Waden Branch	26	10

#### **Private, Tuition-based Childcare**

1 Private School with program

### **Non-Profit Agency Programs**

Hunters Point Boys Club	100
Youth Park	150
Grace Child Development Center	40
Martin Luther King	24
Sojourner Truth	20
Whitney Young Child Development Center	25
Bay Area Children's Ctr.	5
Senators Ace	200

### **Spaces Available**

#### **Schools Without Supervised Programs:**

Sir Francis Drake Elementary  
George Washington Carver Elementary  
Pelton Middle School

#### **Parks Without Supervision**

Bay View Playground (closed in 1978)  
Hilltop Park  
Candlestick Rec Center  
Bay View Park

### **Comments**

There are more private agencies with after-school programs and Park and Rec facilities in Hunters Point than any other section of town. Clearly, the city has made an effort to respond to the obvious high need of this area, and our index reflects the significant number of programs available. Yet, social need indicators--such as juvenile crime and child abuse and neglect figures--remain high in this community.

Programs are generally under-used in Hunters Point. Some of the programs are considered by parents to be unsafe; the topography of Hunter's Point also makes programs inaccessible to children. The Double Rock area is the most underserved. Perhaps a transportation system would increase utilization of the facilities at Youngblood, Milton Meyer, and the Hunters Point gym.

### **Level of Need: High**



## POTRERO HILL

### Statistics on Children

Number of Children:	2,191
Number Children Ages 5 - 14:	1,073
Percentage of City's Child Population:	2.0%
Density of Children:	24.0%

### Socio-Economic Factors:

- Mixed neighborhood racially and economically
- Includes growing affluent area, but also some of the poorest areas in the city
- The Potrero Projects and the area around Jackson Park are among the greatest need areas

### Agencies (Number of children served per day)

#### Children's Centers

Potrero Terrace	40
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#### Recreation and Park

Potrero Hill Rec Center (6-12: 58, teen: 10)	68
Jackson (6-12: 5, teen: 0)	5

#### Non-Profit Agency Programs

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House	50
------------------------------------	----

#### Private, Tuition-Based Childcare

No private schools with after-school childcare programs

### Libraries Breakdown by age: | | 6-12 | # /Day<br>13-18 | |----------------|------|-----------------| | Potrero Branch | 29 | 1 |

### Available Spaces

#### Schools Without Supervised Programs:

Daniel Webster Elementary  
Starr King Elementary  
Potrero Hill Middle School

#### Unsupervised Parks:

McKinley Square

### Comments:

Potrero Hill contains some pockets of very high need. The fact that it is a hilly area with a concentration of light industry means that accessibility to programs is difficult for children.

### Level of Need: High (with pockets of very high need)



## **RICHMOND**

### Statistics on Children

Number of Children:	14,637
Number Children Ages 5 - 14:	6,698
Percentage of City's Child Population:	11%
Density:	19%

### Socio-Economic Factors

- Middle-class community with pockets of greater affluence
- Predominately White and Asian, increasing density

### Agencies (Number of Children served per day)

#### Children's Centers/Latchkey

Geary	110
McCoppin	59
Sutro	82
Lafayette Elementary	30

#### Recreation and Parks

Laurel Hill	9
(6-12: 9, teen: 0)	
Fulton	74
(6-12: 74, teen: 0)	
Richmond	99
(6-12: 44, teen: 55)	
Argonne	20
(6-12: 8, teen: 12)	
Cabrillo	47
(6-12: 40, teen: 7)	
Rossi Pool	199
(6-12: 199, teen: 0)	
Rochambeau	43
(6-12: 22, teen: 21)	
Roosevelt Middle School (gym)	
Recreation Ctr. in planning stages	

#### Non-Profit Agency Programs

YMCA	140
Richmond Comm. Center	30
Multicultural Center	10

<u>Libraries</u>	<u># /Day</u>	
Breakdown by age:	6-12	13-18
Richmond (Reg. Branch)	37	6*
Anza Branch	57	22

### Private, Tuition-Based Childcare

C. Lilienthal, parent-run	54
150 Parker	15
Laurel Hill	24
8 private schools with programs	

### Spaces Available

#### Schools Without Supervised Programs:

Cabrillo Elementary  
Alamo Elementary  
George Peabody elementary  
Presidio Middle School

#### Parks Without Supervision

Mt. Lake Park (Closed in 1978)  
Golden Gate Park  
Presidio, Lincoln Park

### Comments

The Richmond is a large geographic area with a growing percentage of the city's children. The Richmond community does not have a full-fledged Recreation Center, although plans are underway to develop one; there is also a major gap in services for teens.

There are surprisingly few non-profit agency programs in the area. The influx of Asian families creates a higher need for these programs. Only 16% of the Richmond's children are white; the majority are Chinese. Many youth go home to adults after school and have few opportunities to participate in recreation with peers.

### Level of Need: High



## OUTER SUNSET

### Statistics on Children

Number of Children: 12,454

Number Children

Ages 5 - 14: 5,651

Percentage of City's

Child Population: 10%

Density 21%

### Socio-Economic Factors

- Middle-class community
- Asian and White
- Neighborhood in transition;  
many older residents moving out

Agencies (Number of children  
served per day)

#### Children's Centers/Latchkey

Noriega 85

Lawton Alternative  
Elementary 30

#### Recreation and Parks:

Sunset Rec Center 30  
(6-12: 30, teen: 0)

South Sunset 12  
(6-12: 11, teen: 1)

West Sunset 6  
(6-12: 5, teen: 1)

Pool: Wawona & 19th Avenue

Abraham Lincoln High  
School (supervised gym)

#### Non-Profit Agency Programs

Stonestown YMCA 115

#### Private, Tuition-Based Childcare

Little Lights 10

Parkside Nursery 12

4 private schools with programs

### Libraries

	# /Day	
Breakdown by age:	6-12	13-18
Ortega Branch	55	17
Parkside Branch	35	32

### Available Spaces

#### Schools Without Supervised Programs:

Francis Scott Key Elementary

Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary

Ulloa Elementary

A.R. Giannini Middle School

#### Unsupervised Parks:

Parkside

McCoppin

Larsen Park

(All closed Rec Centers)

### Comments:

The Outer Sunset ranks high on our index of need because of the limited number of programs in the community. The community children's librarian reports that children flock to the library after school, expecting to stay there until their parents return from work.

The Sunset is a large geographic area that is inadequately served by its three supervised parks. The higher socio-economic status of families, however, means that many families can afford private arrangements for their children. But it also means that it is not an area into which the City has been willing to put resources in recent years.

Level of need: High





## NOE VALLEY

### Statistics on Children

Number of children:	4,145
Number children ages 5 - 14:	1,931
Percentage of City's Child Population:	3%
Density:	13%

### Socio-Economic Factors

- Middle- to high-income area
- Predominantly White
- Some pockets of lower-income families, predominantly Black and Latino

Agencies (Number of children served per day)

### Children's Centers

Kate Kennedy 179

### Latchkey

Alvarado 30

### Recreation and Parks

Eureka Valley Rec Center 53  
(6-12: 33, teen: 20)

Mission Dolores 27  
(6-12: 16, teen: 11)

Upper Noe Rec Center 98  
(6-12: 43, teen: 55)

Noe Courts 9  
(6-12: 5, teen: 4)

Douglass 10  
(6-12: 9, teen: 1)

### Non-Profit Agency Programs

Young Playground 9

<u>Libraries</u>	<u># /Day</u>	
Breakdown by age:	6-12	13-18
Noe Valley Branch	21	8
Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk	12	3

### Private, Tuition-Based Childcare

Buena Vista Annex (Parent-run)	30
Eureka Learning Center	12
Noe Valley Nursery	15

2 private schools with after-school childcare

### Spaces Available

#### Schools Without Supervised Programs:

Sanchez Elementary  
James Lick Middle School  
Everett Middle School  
Edison Elementary

#### Parks Without Supervision

None

### Comments

Noe Valley did not rank high on our scale of need, in that it has 2 Recreation Centers within its boundaries. However, these are not well-located to the central area.

### Level of Need: Moderate



## MARINA/PACIFIC HEIGHTS

### Statistics on Children

Number of Children: 3,364  
Number Children  
Ages 5 - 14: 1,599  
Percentage of  
City Population: 2.5%  
Density of Kids: 9.0%

### Socio-Economic Factors

- Affluent area
- Small minority population
- Pocket of poor families at Lombard & Greenwich

### Agencies (Number of children served per day)

#### Children's Centers

Yerba Buena 80

#### Recreation and Park:

Moscone Rec Center 64  
(6-12: 44, teen: 20)

Cow Hollow 7  
(6-12: 7, teen: 0)

Alta Plaza 5  
(6-12: 1, teen: 4)

Julius Kahn  
(no formal program)

#### Non-Profit Agency Programs

Jewish Community Center 380  
(180 in program, 150  
in gym, 50 in classes)

#### Private, Tuition-Based Childcare

5 private schools with programs

<u>Libraries</u>	<u># /Day</u>	
Breakdown by age:	6-12	13-18
Marina (Reg. Branch)	35	7
Golden Gate Valley	11	2

### Available Spaces

#### Schools Without Supervised Programs:

Dr. William Cobb Elementary  
Sherman Elementary  
Marina Middle School

#### Unsupervised Parks:

West Harbor  
Allyne

#### Closed Rec Centers:

Lafayette

### Comments:

This area has one of the lowest densities of children. The JCC is able to serve many children in Pacific Heights, so that the need index is one of the lowest in the City. Also, the high socio-economic status of families allows them to make private arrangements for their children.

### Level of Need: Moderate



## CENTRAL HILLS

### Statistics on Children

Number of Children: 3,363  
Number Children  
Ages 5 - 13: 1,558  
Percentage of City's  
Child Population: 2.6%  
Density: 16.0%

### Socio-Economic Factors

- Middle- to high-income area
- Predominantly White

### Agencies (Number of children served per day)

#### Children's Centers

None

#### Recreation and Parks

Glen Park Rec Center (6-12: 63, teen: 57)	120
Middletown Terrace (6-12: 1, teen: 0)	1
Christopher Playground (6-12: 43, teen: 55)	98

#### Non-Profit Agency Programs

None

#### Private, Tuition-Based Childcare

Glen Canyon (Parent Participation)	30
------------------------------------	----

2 private schools with after-school childcare

Libraries	# / Day	
Breakdown by age:	6-12	13-18
Glen Park Branch	10	6

### Spaces Available

#### Schools Without Supervised Programs:

None

#### Parks Without Supervision

Walter Haas (closed in 1978)  
Glen Canyon Park  
Twin Peaks Playground

### Comments

There is one pocket of need in the Central Hills--the subsidized housing in the Diamond Heights area. Otherwise, the community is quite affluent. There is a highly used recreation center in the area.

### Level of Need: Moderate



## BUENA VISTA

### Statistics on Children

Number of Children: 3,988  
Number Children  
Ages 5 - 14: 1,509  
Percentage of City's  
Child Population: 3%  
Density: 15%

### Socio-Economic Factors

- Low- to High-Income
- Racially mixed: Black and White

Agencies (Number of Children  
served per day)

#### Children's Centers

Grattan 85  
John Muir 83

#### Recreation and Parks

Grattan 8  
(6-12: 4, teen: 4)  
Panhandle 3  
(6-12: 2, teen: 1)

#### Private Agencies

Boys and Girls Club,  
Ernest Ingold Branch 225  
Earl Paltenghi  
Youth Center 17  
Fillmore Youth Center 25  
Children's Community  
Center 25

Libraries  
Breakdown by age: 

	#/ Day
6-12	13-18
40	4

  
Buena Park Branch

#### Private, Tuition-Based Childcare

William D. Avila Elementary  
(parent-run) 25

2 private schools with after-school  
childcare programs

### Spaces Available

#### Schools Without Supervised Programs:

McKinley Elementary

#### Parks Without Supervision

Duboce Park (Closed in 1978)  
Corona Heights Playground  
Buena Vista Park  
Koshland Park

### Comments

The child population in the outskirts of the Western Addition and the Panhandle is declining because of escalating property values. The high-need areas have several agencies serving them, although the Department of Recreation and Parks has few programs in the area.

### Level of Need: Moderate





## RECREATION INDEX

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>R &amp; P</u>	<u>C. Ctrs</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>5-14 pop</u>	<u>Ratio</u>
Bernal Heights	108	141	130	379	2,514	.151
Buena Vista	11	85	282	378	1,509	.250
Central Hills	219	0	0	219	1,558	.141
Chinatown	182	250	405	837	4,557	.184
Hunters Point	271	320	564	1155	3,022	.382
Inner Sunset	45	77	0	122	2,598	.047
Marina/P.Heights	76	80	380	536	1,599	.335
Mission	412	160	445	1017	6,346	.160
Noe Valley	197	209	9	415	1,931	.215
North of Market	232	46	120	388	3,500*	.113
O.V./Ing./Merced	179	60	74	313	5,177	.061
Outer Mission	167	335	250	807	6,343	.127
Outer Sunset	48	115	115	278	5,651	.049
Potrero Hill	73	40	50	163	1,073	.151
Richmond	491	281	180	952	6,698	.142
South of Market	0	0	190	190	1,500*	.127
Vis Valley	71	135	16	222	2,631	.084
Western Addition	178	257	385	820	3,739	.219
TOTALS	2960	2674	3595	1109	61,946	.171

\*Used 1986 population estimates, due to dramatic demographic changes in the past six years in these areas.



### III. CONCLUSIONS

1. **The majority of San Francisco's children do not participate in structured, supervised after-school activities.** Our data indicate that less than one in five children ages 5 to 14 in San Francisco participate in daily after-school programs; less than one-third of youngsters ages 5 to 9 participate in these programs. When we consider that, nationally, two-thirds of mothers work (and this is a conservative estimate for San Francisco), then current programs for children after-school are grossly inadequate to meet the need, and the lack of adequate after-school activities for children is a social problem of major proportions.
2. **The primary defect in after-school care is lack of programming and staff, and lack of transportation, not lack of facilities.** With some important exceptions, San Francisco does have adequate facilities and sites for after-school programs. Every neighborhood has from two to seven elementary schools, and middle schools that are not being utilized for after-school care. In addition, there are numerous (unsupervised) parks and at least a dozen with some indoor space.

However, despite ample facilities, lack of staff and programs and lack of transportation make for their inadequate use. The use of Recreation and Park facilities is limited in most cases because of single, and in some cases part-time, staffing. Schools remain virtually empty after-hours and most non-profit agencies are not open full-time, nor do they operate at full capacity.

There are, however, three neighborhoods that do not have adequate facilities; these are the Tenderloin, Chinatown and South of Market areas, for which new centers are being planned, and the Inner Sunset--for which no new facilities are currently being planned.

3. **New, cost-effective latchkey program models are needed.** As stated in the body of this report, more childcare centers are not a realistic answer to the latchkey problem. They are too expensive and they are not appropriate as children get older. Yet traditional, "drop-in" after-school recreation, as offered by Recreation and Parks, is also not an appropriate model for meeting today's needs. Parents are concerned about safety for their children, and the lack of registration at these programs provokes fears. Many parents are also concerned that at least some after-school time be spent in improving the academic performance of their youngsters, an element that is lacking from traditional recreation programs.

Non-profit agencies have developed some innovative ideas, as noted this report. But a hybrid program that combines the most appropriate elements of traditional recreation programs and childcare programs, and that provides a good balance between recreation and academic improvement, needs to be brought into the public sector and implemented on a large scale throughout the city. Recreation and Parks is the logical agency to put this model into effect.



**4. Recreation and Parks must adapt its services to San Francisco's changing needs.** Recreation and Parks is the primary provider to San Francisco's children after school. It has the public funding, the legal mandate, and the facilities to provide these services. Yet many Rec and Parks facilities are under-utilized. Too few girls and too few teens receive services. And most importantly, the programs developed do not meet the needs of latchkey children with working parents. There are often inadequate resources to offer a variety of programming; program design is limited.

The Rec and Parks Department has done little in recent years to adapt its programmatic ideas to the changing needs of San Francisco's children.

**5. The private non-profit sector leads the way in innovative programming.** The private sector has developed some innovative program models for after-school care that are potentially cost-effective and meet the needs of latchkey children. Some innovations include:

- \* Program models combining drop-in programs and pre-registration and daily supervision.
- \* Combining academic assistance with consistent, daily recreation programming.
- \* Collaboration with supplementary programs such as Girl Scouts and Camp Fire.
- \* Creating a mixture of public and private sector resources.
- \* Expanded hours to accommodate the needs of children whose parents both work.
- \* Novel and interesting activities, such as computer classes, that attract kids and get them "off the street."

**6. Safety is a major factor in the utilization of after-school programs.** It is the most important concern of parents about public after-school programs, particularly those run by Recreation and Parks. Parents will not send their children to places where they do not trust that staff are carefully monitoring unsafe activities--which include everything from bigger youth picking on little children to drug dealing. In addition, parents will not send their children to places that are accessibly only by walking through unsafe areas. For these reasons, a Rec and Parks playground in the Mission may be nearly empty, while the Boy's Club a few blocks away is overflowing with children.

Policies of the Rec and Parks administration, San Francisco law enforcement officials and program staff all have an impact on the safety of various programs for children in the city.



**7. Teens are underserved.** Recreation and Park statistics indicate that two-thirds of the youth served are between the ages of 5 and 12. Most of the teens using their programs are participating in athletics. Only a few community centers focus on teens, through group activities, occasional dances and other social events. However, other non-profit agencies, such as the Y's, have cut back on teen services and tailored their programs to younger age groups. There is one program in Hunters Point (Senators Ace) that serves 200 teens a day; it is a creative combination of tutoring, career counseling, athletics and other social and recreational activities. However, aside from ACE, a handful of neighborhood community centers, and a few Rec and Park centers, there are almost no educational, cultural or social programs for teens in San Francisco.

Urban teenagers are at high risk of becoming involved in drugs, delinquent behavior, and other problems. Recreational programs not only serve their leisure-time needs, they also serve a preventive purpose. Some programs have closed due to lack of participation; it is important to develop program ideas that will attract teens. A program model that has worked in the past--the formation of small groups for teens--could be tried again. Agencies should be provided with adequate staff to make sure these programs work.

**8. Girls are underserved.** Girls are shortchanged in the city's recreational services, which focus on athletics for boys. Two-thirds of youth served by Recreation and Parks, the primary service-provider, are boys. Most of the Boys Clubs have added girls, but some have not and most still serve more boys than girls. The Boy Scouts is five times larger than the Girl Scouts in San Francisco; the Police Athletic League serves boys.

This emphasis on boys in recreation is a long-standing tradition. Athletics has been the domain of boys, and delinquency prevention activities have been seen as primarily aimed at boys. The result of this tradition and of cultural stereotypes about girls is a pattern of services that seems hard to break.

**9. San Francisco's various geographic neighborhoods are unevenly served.** Some of the areas with the greatest numbers of children have the fewest services:

-- **Pockets of extreme need frequently center around public housing projects.** We have identified the following housing projects as having little or no after-school recreation resources for school-age children or teens and for which no services are being planned:

- Allemany Projects
- Alice Griffith Projects
- Valencia Gardens
- Bernal Projects
- Geneva Towers
- Sunnydale
- Potrero Projects





North Beach Projects  
Holly Park Projects

- **Non-Profit agency programs focus primarily on a few high-risk areas of the city.** The majority of non-profit agency programs are located in the Hunters Point area (8), Mission (6), Western Addition (5), and Chinatown (4). These are, of course, areas of the city that have long been viewed as high in need, and most of the agencies there are quite well-established. However, there are other neighborhoods that are equally high in need, yet have significantly fewer non-profit agency programs: the Ocean View/Ingleside area, for example, has no non-profit agency programs serving its population; the Outer Mission has two, and Visitacion Valley has only one agency. These three neighborhoods contain almost 25% of San Francisco's child population. The fact that these areas are further from the center of the city may be one factor in their paucity of non-profit agency programs.
- **Recreation and Park facilities serve most communities, but leave a few areas significantly underserved.** There are somewhat more facilities in the Southeast section of the city (the Outer Mission, Ingleside, Ocean View, Hunters Point) than in other areas. This seems appropriate in light of the small number of non-profit agency programs in those areas, and the high number of children. The Rec and Park Department seems to have accurately targeted four high-need areas-- Chinatown, South of Market, the Tenderloin, and the Richmond--and plans for new facilities in these areas are underway.

There are other neighborhoods of high need, however, which will remain significantly underserved unless they are included for new planning. These include the Inner and Outer Sunset, in which 14% of the city's children live, and where only one non-profit agency program and five supervised Rec and Park programs exist; and Visitacion Valley, which has the highest density of children in the city, but only two part-time Recreation and Park programs.

The efforts of the city to target high-need areas should be applauded. At the same time, the city needs to take note of its middle-class family communities. They will become less attractive to families if after-school recreation programs do not keep up with the growing need. They cannot be left out of future planning.
- **Private, tuition-based childcare programs are focused in private school settings.** The majority of these programs are in the more affluent sections of the city, where parents can afford this option. For instance, the communities with the greatest number of private school/after-school programs are Pacific Heights, the Richmond and Lake Merced. Many of the poorer parts of the city have no or only one private school/after-care program, as is the case with South of Market, the Tenderloin, the Mission, Hunter's Point and Bernal Heights.



## IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Give Recreation and Parks Adequate Resources

The City must recognize the role of the SF Recreation and Parks Department as the primary provider of after-school services to children, and allocate to them the resources to assume this role more adequately.

Staff must be retrained and better supervised so that their full potential can be utilized by the city.

### 2. Develop New Latchkey Models

The Recreation and Parks must develop a new program model for latchkey children, which combines basic elements of daily consistent supervision with drop-in recreation. The Department should adopt some of the ideas of the Boys Clubs in developing such a program. The program should include:

- Pre-registration, daily sign-in
- A wide variety of drop-in activities
- Expanded hours
- Collaboration with other groups such as libraries and Girl Scouts
- Outreach to parents
- Volunteer component
- Tutoring component, to provide a balance between children's needs for recreation and parents' concerns regarding academics

### 3. Make Safety a Higher Priority

The SF Police Department must make safety in children's recreation areas a higher priority. The Park Squad should be expanded and should work aggressively with Recreation and Parks personnel to clean up (and maintain) all recreation areas. Rec and Park administration, program staff and law enforcement officials should work collaboratively to improve safety.

### 4. Utilize Existing Facilities to Maximum Extent

In most cases, city and private-funding should focus on getting existing facilities operating at full capacity--rather than in the development of new facilities.

School-age programs must be developed in all possible elementary school sites. This should be done, in part, as a collaboration between Recreation and Parks and the SFUSD. (This program has been initiated and will be continued and expanded with the passage of Proposition D).

The SFUSD should adopt policies that encourage the utilization of sites by the city and non-profit agencies. All barriers to the use of school sites for latchkey programs should be removed, including use of facilities by adult teams and classes, which currently makes many schools inaccessible after hours.



## **5. Target Programs in Needy Areas**

New money should be targeted in the highest-need areas where there are the fewest existing services--such as Ocean View, Ingleside, Outer Mission, Visitacion Valley, Inner Sunset, South of Market, Excelsior, Tenderloin, Chinatown, Richmond and sections of Hunter's Point, Bernal Heights and Potrero Hill.

The Housing Authority, the city and the private sector should collaborate in developing after-school and evening programs in all of the high-need housing projects. This should be an immediate priority.

## **6. Initiate Special Programs for Teens and for Girls**

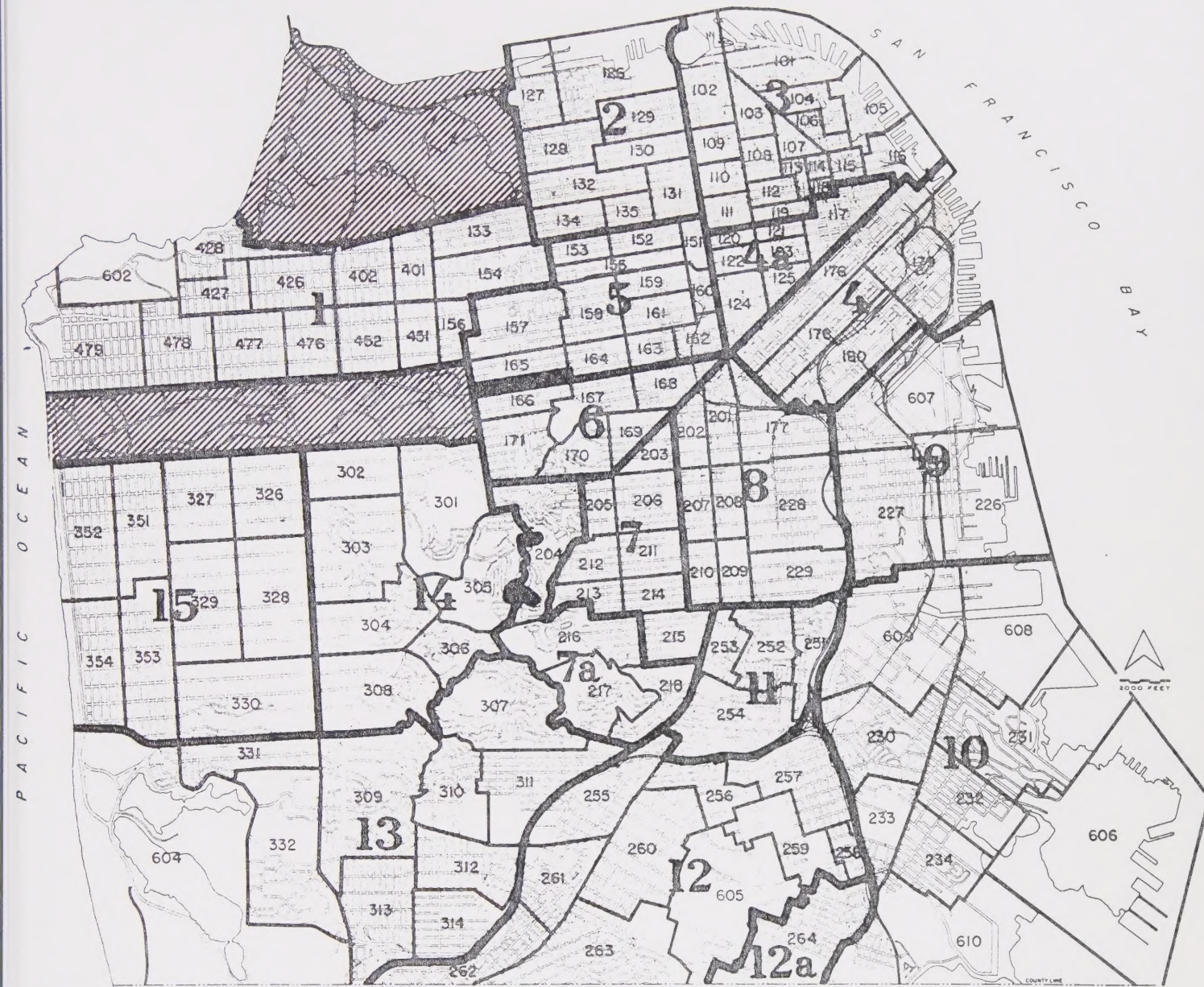
Teen programs should be developed by the Recreation and Parks Department and non-profit agencies. Special effort should be made to develop programs that attract girls. Programs should include educational, social, cultural, as well as athletic activities. Immediate priority should be given to opening the gyms in middle and high schools in the evening. (This program will be instituted with the recent passage of Proposition D.) Small-group programs should also be instituted.

## **7. Develop After-School Transportation System for Children**

A city-wide transportation system for children after school must be developed, to get children to various public and private programs throughout the city. A shuttle bus system--such as is used for senior programs---is a possibility, as well as more creative and expanded use of the school bus system.







## COMMUNITY PLANNING DISTRICTS

1. RICHMOND
2. MARINA
3. NORTHEAST RESIDENTIAL-CHINATOWN
4. SOUTH OF MARKET
- 4a. NORTH OF MARKET
5. WESTERN ADDITION
6. BUENA VISTA
7. CENTRAL
- 7a. CENTRAL HILLS

8. MISSION
9. POTRERO
10. SOUTH BAYSHORE
11. BERNAL HEIGHTS
12. OUTER MISSION
- 12a. VISITACION VALLEY
13. OCEAN VIEW-MERCER-INGLESIDE
14. INNER SUNSET
15. OUTER SUNSET

000 CENSUS TRACTS

Special Areas



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TO →**

1	2	3
4	5	6

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Figure 1 consists of two diagrams, (a) and (b), illustrating the geometry of the problem. Diagram (a) shows a rectangular domain with a vertical line segment labeled 'a' and a horizontal line segment labeled 'b'. Diagram (b) shows a rectangular domain with a vertical line segment labeled 'a' and a horizontal line segment labeled 'b'.

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